

INTELLIFAX 5

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Korea

SUBJECT: Identification and Registration Regulations

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1. Identification (citizenship) cards must be carried by all Korean citizens and are frequently checked in public places (such as trains, hotels, or vessels) by police or Public Security Officials. According to Cabinet Decree No. 53 of the Korean Democratic People's Republic, in November 1948, all North Korean citizens over the age of eighteen were issued new cards upon presentation of the old one or a birth certificate. The following regulations were promulgated:
 - a. The identification card is the sole certificate to identify the citizen and guarantee his rights and functions as a citizen of the Korean Democratic People's Republic.
 - b. Each citizen of the Korean People's Republic over the age of eighteen shall possess an identification card. Anyone not possessing a card must obtain one immediately.
 - c. Persons under the age of eighteen must possess birth certificates, and anyone not possessing one must apply for it immediately.
 - d. Identification cards and birth certificates are not transferable, and their contents cannot be revised or added to at the discretion of the possessors.
 - e. Whenever the content of an identification card is found to be incorrect or the card is defaced or stained, the card will be exchanged for a new one. When a citizen assumes a new occupation, the change will be noted on the identification card.
2. Procurement of identification cards is handled through local police offices. An applicant must obtain a form from the police station and submit it to the identification section of the station, with the endorsement of the neighborhood squad, the chairman of the ward people's committee, and the personal identification section of the district people's committee. The Public Security Bureau then conducts a check of the applicant's loyalty. Identification cards are not issued to Japanese collaborators or traitors to the nation. Loss of a card must be certified by witnesses before a new card can be issued.

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3. Procedures for birth registration are prescribed as follows: parents of a child or its guardians will request a birth certificate from the nearest personal identification station upon submission of a birth verification statement from a doctor or the chairman of the local people's committee. Within fourteen days after a birth, the parents or guardian must obtain a birth certificate and enter the child's birth on the local statistical records and in the family column of the parent or guardian's identification card. The birth certificate serves as identification to the age of eighteen, when the holder applies to his nearest police station for a regular identification card. He must then present a letter of application for the card, accompanied by a birth certificate, two photographs, and fifteen won for a revenue stamp. The identification card will show whether or not he has presented a proper birth record.
4. For marriage registration, both parties must apply for the marriage certificate either from their local statistical office or from the nearest personal identification office. The marriage is then registered in the family column of the identification card; certification costs a ten-won revenue stamp. Both parties must report the marriage.
5. To obtain a divorce, both parties must appear together at a statistical office and procure a divorce certificate and have the divorce registered on their identification cards. When the divorce is given by court decision, either the plaintiff or both parties must present the court announcement to the local statistical office within ten days after the decision. The statistics office then issues the divorce certificate and makes the appropriate entries on the identification card.
6. Changes of residence must also be registered. Before moving from one location to another, the individual must notify the local police station of his intention, record it in the local residence register, and obtain permission to depart. A letter applying for permission to move must be submitted both to the police and to the neighborhood squad chief and the ward or district people's committee for endorsement. The lodging record of the house in which the individual has been living must be turned in if the house is left vacant; otherwise it remains and his departure is noted on it.
7. The departure from the previous residence is also noted on the identification card. To register permanently in a new residence, the individual must submit an application to the police authorities of the new district within fourteen days after leaving the old district and within three days after arriving in the prospective residence area. The application must be accompanied by an endorsement from the neighborhood squad chief and the chairman of the ward people's committee. Registration of the new residence will be made in the lodging record of the house into which the individual has moved, or if no such record exists, in the lodging books of the local squad unit, and on the individual's identification card. Residence registrations must be made for each individual obtaining a new identification card within three days of its issuance.
8. Visitors as well as permanent residents must be recorded in the lodging books. Any person other than members of the family who resides in a house must be registered, and the dates of his arrival and departure reported to the police.
9. Reports of deaths must be submitted to the local statistical office by a member of the individual's family or a legal guardian, or, if none of these is available, by the administrator of the estate. Death reports, including a death certificate from either a doctor or the chairman of the local people's committee, must be submitted within three days after the death if the deceased had a birth certificate. If he did not, the death must be reported within

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five days, with a certificate from the doctor or the local people's committee chairman and the deceased's citizenship card. The fee for a death certificate is a ten-won revenue stamp. If an infant dies before the birth report has been submitted, both events may be reported at the same time, but individual birth and death reports must be made.

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